

What is claimed is:

1        1. A method of establishing a call session over a packet-based network,  
2 comprising:  
3                receiving, in a first switch, a call request over the packet-based network  
4 from a first terminal associated with a logical identifier, the call request targeting a  
5 second terminal coupled to a second switch;  
6                storing, in the first switch, information relating to features of the first  
7 terminal, the information associated with the logical identifier;  
8                sending, from the first switch, a request over a packet-based trunk to the  
9 second switch in response to the call request; and  
10               sending, from the first switch to the first terminal, a media connection  
11 request containing a network address of the second terminal to enable the first terminal to  
12 establish a media path with the second terminal over the packet-based network.

1        2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises  
2 receiving an off-hook indication and a dialed number.

1        3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the call request comprises  
2 receiving a network address of the first terminal.

1        4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining the logical  
2 identifier based on the network address.

1        5. The method of claim 2, wherein the network address comprises an Internet  
2 Protocol address.

1        6. The method of claim 1, wherein the logical identifier comprises a virtual  
2 terminal number.

1        7. The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing the information in  
2 response to the call request to perform a predetermined action.

1           8.     The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the call request comprises  
2 receiving an indication of activation of a button on the first terminal.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein accessing the information comprises  
2 accessing the information to determine an action to perform in response to the activation  
3 of the button.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein storing the information comprises storing  
2 the information in a profile associated with the logical identifier.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, further comprising storing other profiles of other  
2 terminals associated with other logical identifiers.

1           12.    The method of claim 1, wherein storing the information comprises storing  
2 configuration information relating to one or more buttons of the first terminal.

1           13.    The method of claim 1, further comprising the second switch sending a  
2 second media connection request to the second terminal, the second media connection  
3 request containing a network address of the first terminal to enable the second terminal to  
4 establish a media path with the first terminal over the packet-based network

1           14. A switch system for establishing calls over a packet-based network,  
2 comprising:  
3                   an interface adapted to communicate over the packet-based network;  
4                   a controller communicatively coupled to the interface and adapted to  
5 receive a call request from a first terminal, the first terminal associated with a logical  
6 identifier, the call request targeting a second terminal that is coupled to a second switch  
7 system,  
8                   the controller adapted to further send signaling to the second switch  
9 system over a packet-based trunk provided over the packet-based network; and  
10                  a storage unit containing information relating to features of the first  
11 terminal, the information associated with the logical identifier of the first terminal.

1           15. The system of claim 14, wherein the logical identifier comprises a virtual  
2 terminal number.

1           16. The system of claim 15, wherein the storage unit further comprises a table  
2 mapping the virtual terminal number to a network address.

1           17. The system of claim 16, wherein the network address comprises an  
2 Internet Protocol address.

1           18. The system of claim 16, wherein the table comprises plural virtual  
2 terminal numbers mapped to corresponding plural network addresses.

1           19. The system of claim 14, wherein the storage unit contains a profile  
2 associated with the logical identifier of the first terminal, the profile containing the  
3 information relating to features.

1           20. The system of claim 19, wherein the storage unit contains at least another  
2 profile associated with at least another logical identifier of another terminal.

1           21. The system of claim 14, wherein the signaling between the switch systems  
2 comprise signaling to determine if the second terminal is a network terminal capable of  
3 communicating over the packet-based terminal.

1           22. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions  
2 that when executed cause a first switch to:

3           receive a request over a packet-based network from a first terminal, the  
4 terminal associated with a logical identifier;  
5           access a profile associated with the logical identifier; and  
6           use information in the profile to send signaling to a second switch to  
7 establish a call session with a second terminal.

1           23. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and comprising instructions that  
2 when executed cause a first switch to:

3           receive a call request over the packet-based network from a first terminal  
4 associated with a logical identifier, the call request targeting a second terminal coupled to  
5 a second switch;

6           store information relating to features of the first terminal, the information  
7 associated with the logical identifier;

8           send a request over a packet-based trunk to the second switch in response  
9 to the call request; and

10           send a media connection request to the first terminal containing a network  
11 address of the second terminal to enable the first terminal to establish a media path with  
12 the second terminal over the packet-based network.